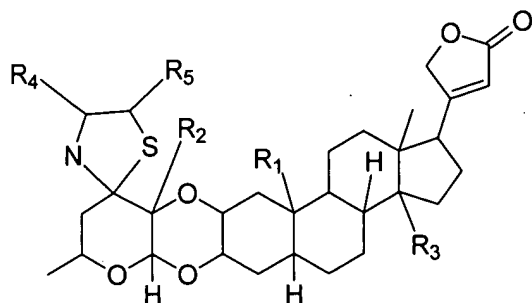


## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A compound of the formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,  
 formula I



wherein R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxy, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkylthiocarbonyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, cycloalkylthiocarbonyl, cycloalkylalkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkylalkoxythiocarbonyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, arylcarbonyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylcarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, arylthiocarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, arylalkylthiocarbonyl, aryloxyalkyl, arylthioalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aralkanoyl, aroyl, aryloxycarbonylalkyl, aryloxyalkanoyl, carboxyl, formyl, alkenylcarbonyl, alkynylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>cycloalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>carbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthiocarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>thiocarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkanoyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkanoyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aroyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>carbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl; Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>carbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>thiocarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkanoyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthiocarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkanoyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aroyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>carbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, cyano, aminocarbonyl, aminoalkanoyl, aminoalkyl, CR<sup>6</sup>=NR<sup>7</sup> and CR<sup>6</sup>=N(OR<sup>7</sup>), with R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> being independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl,

aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;

wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, alkyloxy, alkylsilyloxy, arylsilyloxy, alkyloxyalkyloxy, cycloalkyloxy cycloalkylalkyloxy, aralkyloxy, aryloxyalkyloxy, silyloxy, alkylcarbonyloxy, arylcarbonyloxy, cycloalkylcarbonyloxy, haloalkyloxy, hydroxyalkyloxy, aralkanoyloxy, aroyloxy, aryloxy carbonylalkyloxy, formyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>cycloalkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>carbonyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>oxycarbonyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>alkanoyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkanoyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aroyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxy; Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>cycloalkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>alkanoyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkanoyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>carbonyloxyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxy, and Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyloxy,

wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, cycloalkyl, alkyloxy carbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)<sub>t</sub>, hydroxy, cyano, halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>amino, Het<sup>2</sup>amino, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>1</sup>thio, Het<sup>2</sup>thio, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy and Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, OR<sup>8</sup>, SR<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, CN, CR<sup>8</sup>=NR<sup>9</sup>, S(O)R<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, CR<sup>8</sup>=N(OR<sup>9</sup>), N<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)R<sup>8</sup>, C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)SR<sup>8</sup>, C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, N(OH)CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)SR<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NHSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>NHR<sup>9</sup>, and P(O)(OR<sup>8</sup>)(OR<sup>9</sup>), with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> being each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl,

alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;

wherein  $R^4$  is selected from the group consisting of oxo, hydroxyl, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkanediyl, alkyloxy, alkylthio, alkylamino, alkyloxyalkyl, arylcarbonylalkyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkylcarbonylalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyloxy, cycloalkylthio, cycloalkylamino, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, aryl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylcarbonyloxy, aryloxycarbonyloxy, aralkoxy, aryloxyalkyl, haloalkyloxy, haloalkylthio, haloalkylamino, hydroxyalkyl, aralkanoyl, aryloxycarbonylalkyl, aryloxyalkanoyl,  $Het^1$ ,  $Het^1$ alkyl,  $Het^1$ oxy,  $Het^1$ oxyalkyl,  $Het^1$ aryl,  $Het^1$ aralkyl,  $Het^1$ cycloalkyl,  $Het^1$ aryloxyalkyl,  $Het^1$ aroil,  $Het^2$ ,  $Het^2$ oxy,  $Het^2$ alkyl,  $Het^2$ oxyalkyl,  $Het^2$ aralkyl,  $Het^2$ cycloalkyl,  $Het^2$ aryl,  $Het^2$ alkanoyl,  $Het^2$ aralkanoyl,  $Het^2$ aroil,  $Het^2$ aryloxyalkyl, aminocarbonyl, aminoalkanoyl, and aminoalkyl, unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl,  $Het^1$ ,  $Het^2$ , cycloalkyl, alkyloxy, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl,  $alkylS(=O)_t$ , hydroxy, cyano, halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl,  $Het^1$ ,  $Het^2$ ,  $Het^1$ alkyl,  $Het^2$ alkyl,  $Het^1$ amino,  $Het^2$ amino,  $Het^1$ alkylamino,  $Het^2$ alkylamino,  $Het^1$ thio,  $Het^2$ thio,  $Het^1$ alkylthio,  $Het^2$ alkylthio,  $Het^1$ oxy and  $Het^2$ oxy,  $OR^{11}$ ,  $SR^{11}$ ,  $SO_2NR^{11}R^{12}$ ,  $SO_2N(OH)R^{11}$ ,  $CN$ ,  $CR^{11}=NR^{12}$ ,  $S(O)R^{11}$ ,  $SO_2R^{11}$ ,  $CR^{11}=N(OR^{12})$ ,  $N_3$ ,  $NO_2$ ,  $NR^{11}R^{12}$ ,  $N(OH)R^{11}$ ,  $C(O)R^{11}$ ,  $C(S)R^{11}$ ,  $CO_2R^{11}$ ,  $C(O)SR^{11}$ ,  $C(O)NR^{11}R^{12}$ ,  $C(S)NR^{11}R^{12}$ ,  $C(O)N(OH)R^{12}$ ,  $C(S)N(OH)R^{11}$ ,  $NR^{11}C(O)R^{12}$ ,  $NR^{11}C(S)R^{12}$ ,  $N(OH)C(O)R^{12}$ ,  $N(OH)C(S)R^{11}$ ,  $NR^{11}CO_2R^{12}$ ,  $NR^{11}C(O)NR^{12}R^{13}$ , and  $NR^{11}C(S)NR^{12}R^{13}$ ,  $N(OH)CO_2R^{11}$ ,  $NR^{11}C(O)SR^{12}$ ,  $N(OH)C(O)NR^{11}R^{12}$ ,  $N(OH)C(S)NR^{11}R^{12}$ ,  $NR^{11}C(O)N(OH)R^{12}$ ,  $NR^{11}C(S)N(OH)R^{12}$ ,  $NR^{11}SO_2R^{12}$ ,  $NHSO_2NR^{11}R^{12}$ ,  $NR^{11}SO_2NHR^{12}$ ,  $P(O)(OR^{11})(OR^{12})$ , wherein  $t$  is an integer between 1 and 2,  $R^{11}$ ,  $R^{12}$  and  $R^{13}$  are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, and alkynyl; and

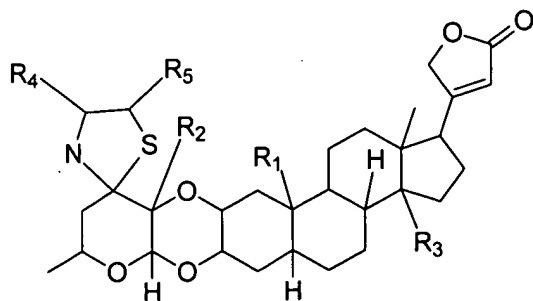
wherein R<sup>5</sup> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, oxo, hydroxyl, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkanediyl, alkyloxy, alkyloxyalkyl, arylcarbonylalkyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkylcarbonylalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, aryl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylcarbonyloxy, aryloxy, aryloxyalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aralkanoyl, aryloxyalkyl, aryloxyalkanoyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>cycloalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aroyle, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl; Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>cycloalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkanoyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkanoyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aroyle, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyl, aminocarbonyl, aminoalkanoyl, and aminoalkyl, unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, cycloalkyl, alkyloxy, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)<sub>t</sub>, hydroxy, cyano, halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, aylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>amino, Het<sup>2</sup>amino, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>1</sup>thio, Het<sup>2</sup>thio, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy and Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, OR<sup>11</sup>, SR<sup>11</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>N(OH)R<sup>11</sup>, CN, CR<sup>11</sup>=NR<sup>12</sup>, S(O)R<sup>11</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>11</sup>, CR<sup>11</sup>=N(OR<sup>12</sup>), N<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>, N(OH)R<sup>11</sup>, C(O)R<sup>11</sup>, C(S)R<sup>11</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>11</sup>, C(O)SR<sup>11</sup>, C(O)NR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>, C(S)NR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>, C(O)N(OH)R<sup>12</sup>, C(S)N(OH)R<sup>11</sup>, NR<sup>11</sup>C(O)R<sup>12</sup>, NR<sup>11</sup>C(S)R<sup>12</sup>, N(OH)C(O)R<sup>12</sup>, N(OH)C(S)R<sup>11</sup>, NR<sup>11</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>12</sup>, NR<sup>11</sup>C(O)NR<sup>12</sup>R<sup>13</sup>, and NR<sup>11</sup>C(S)NR<sup>12</sup>R<sup>13</sup>, N(OH)CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>11</sup>, NR<sup>11</sup>C(O)SR<sup>12</sup>, N(OH)C(O)NR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>, N(OH)C(S)NR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>, NR<sup>11</sup>C(O)N(OH)R<sup>12</sup>, NR<sup>11</sup>C(S)N(OH)R<sup>12</sup>, NR<sup>11</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>12</sup>, NHSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>, NR<sup>11</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>NHR<sup>12</sup>, and P(O)(OR<sup>11</sup>)(OR<sup>12</sup>), wherein t is an integer between 1 and 2, R<sup>11</sup>, R<sup>12</sup> and R<sup>13</sup> are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, and alkynyl;

wherein Het<sup>1</sup> is defined as a saturated or partially unsaturated monocyclic, bicyclic or polycyclic heterocycle consisting of 3 to 12 ring members which comprise one or more heteroatom ring members selected from nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur, optionally substituted on one or more carbon atoms by alkyl, alkyloxy, halogen, hydroxyl, oxo, optionally mono- or disubstituted amino, nitro,

cyano, haloalkyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl cycloalkyl, optionally mono-or disubstituted aminocarbonyl, methylthio, methylsulfonyl, aryl and a saturated or partially unsaturated monocyclic, bicyclic or tricyclic heterocycle consisting of 3 to 12 ring members which contain one or more heteroatom ring members selected from nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur and whereby the optional substituents on any amino function are independently selected from alkyl, alkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, aryl, aryloxy, aryloxyalkyl, aralkyl, alkyloxycarbonylamino, amino and aminoalkyl whereby each of the amino groups may optionally be mono-or disubstituted with alkyl;

wherein Het<sup>2</sup> is defined as an aromatic monocyclic, bicyclic or tricyclic heterocycle consisting of 3 to 12 ring members comprising one or more heteroatom ring members selected from nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur and optionally substituted on one or more carbon atoms by alkyl, alkyloxy, halogen, hydroxyl, optionally mono-or disubstituted amino, nitro, cyano, haloalkyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkyl, optionally mono-or disubstituted aminocarbonyl, methylthio, methylsulfonyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup> and an aromatic monocyclic, bicyclic, or tricyclic heterocycle consisting of 3 to 12 ring members, whereby the optional substituents on any amino function are independently selected from alkyl, alkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, aryl, aryloxy, aryloxyalkyl, aralkyl, alkyloxycarbonylamino, amino, and aminoalkyl whereby each of the amino groups may optionally be mono- or disubstituted with alkyl.

2. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 1, having the formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,  
formula I



wherein R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxy, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkylthiocarbonyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkylalkyl,

cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, cycloalkylthiocarbonyl, cycloalkylalkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkylalkoxythiocarbonyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, arylcarbonyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylcarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, arylthiocarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, arylalkylthiocarbonyl, aryloxyalkyl, arylthioalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aralkanoyl, aroyl, aryloxycarbonylalkyl, aryloxyalkanoyl, carboxyl, formyl, alkenylcarbonyl, alkynylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>cycloalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>carbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthiocarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>thiocarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkanoyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkanoyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aroyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>carbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl; Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>carbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>thiocarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkanoyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthiocarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkanoyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aroyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>carbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, cyano, aminocarbonyl, aminoalkanoyl, aminoalkyl, CR<sup>6</sup>=NR<sup>7</sup> and CR<sup>6</sup>=N(OR<sup>7</sup>), with R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> being independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;

wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, alkyloxy, alkylsilyloxy, arylsilyloxy, alkyloxyalkyloxy, cycloalkyloxy cycloalkylalkyloxy, aralkyloxy, aryloxyalkyloxy, silyloxy, alkylcarbonyloxy, arylcarbonyloxy, cycloalkylcarbonyloxy, haloalkyloxy, hydroxyalkyloxy, aralkanoyloxy, aroyloxy, aryloxycarbonylalkyloxy, formyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>cycloalkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>carbonyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>oxycarbonyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>alkanoyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkanoyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aroyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxy; Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>cycloalkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>alkanoyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkanoyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>carbonyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxy, and Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyloxy,

wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, cycloalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)<sub>t</sub>, hydroxy, cyano, halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>amino, Het<sup>2</sup>amino, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>1</sup>thio, Het<sup>2</sup>thio, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy and Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, OR<sup>8</sup>, SR<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, CN, CR<sup>8</sup>=NR<sup>9</sup>, S(O)R<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, CR<sup>8</sup>=N(OR<sup>9</sup>), N<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)R<sup>8</sup>, C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)SR<sup>8</sup>, C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, N(OH)CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)SR<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NHSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>NHR<sup>9</sup>, and P(O)(OR<sup>8</sup>)(OR<sup>9</sup>), with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> being each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;

wherein R<sup>4</sup> is oxo and R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen or alkyl.

3. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, cycloalkylalkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, arylcarbonyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylcarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, arylthioalkyl, aralkanoyl, aroyl, carboxyl, formyl, alkenylcarbonyl, alkynylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxycarbonyl,

Het<sup>1</sup>aralkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl,  
 Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>carbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl,  
 Het<sup>1</sup>aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxycarbonyl,  
 Het<sup>2</sup>alkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyl,  
 Het<sup>2</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkylcarbonyl,  
 Het<sup>2</sup>carbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, CR<sup>6</sup>=NR<sup>7</sup>, and  
 CR<sup>6</sup>=N(OR<sup>7</sup>),

with R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> being independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl,  
 alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl,  
 alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;  
 wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, alkyloxy,  
 alkyloxyalkyloxy, cycloalkyloxy, cycloalkylalkyloxy, aralkyloxy, aryloxyalkyloxy, silyloxy,  
 alkylcarbonyloxy, arylcarbonyloxy, cycloalkylcarbonyloxy, aryloxycarbonylalkyloxy, formyloxy,  
 Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>cycloalkyloxy,  
 Het<sup>1</sup>carbonyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>alkanoyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkanoyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>oxy,  
 Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>cycloalkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>alkanoyloxy,  
 Het<sup>2</sup>aralkanoyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>carbonyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxy, and Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyloxy,

wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents  
 independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, cycloalkyl,  
 alkyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl,  
 alkylS(=O)<sub>n</sub>, hydroxy, cyano, halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein  
 the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl,  
 aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy,  
 aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino,  
 arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio,  
 arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl,  
 Het<sup>1</sup>amino, Het<sup>2</sup>amino, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>1</sup>thio, Het<sup>2</sup>thio, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthio,  
 Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy and Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, OR<sup>8</sup>, SR<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, CN, CR<sup>8</sup>=NR<sup>9</sup>,  
 S(O)R<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, CR<sup>8</sup>=N(OR<sup>9</sup>), N<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)R<sup>8</sup>, C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>,  
~~C(O)SR<sup>8</sup>~~, C(O)SR<sup>8</sup>, C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)R<sup>9</sup>,



$\text{NR}^8\text{C}(\text{S})\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{N}(\text{OH})\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{N}(\text{OH})\text{C}(\text{S})\text{R}^8$ ,  $\text{NR}^8\text{CO}_2\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{NR}^8\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^9\text{R}^{10}$ ,  $\text{NR}^8\text{C}(\text{S})\text{NR}^9\text{R}^{10}$ ,  $\text{N}(\text{OH})\text{CO}_2\text{R}^8$ ,  $\text{NR}^8\text{C}(\text{O})\text{SR}^9$ ,  $\text{N}(\text{OH})\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^8\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{N}(\text{OH})\text{C}(\text{S})\text{NR}^8\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{NR}^8\text{C}(\text{O})\text{N}(\text{OH})\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{NR}^8\text{C}(\text{S})\text{N}(\text{OH})\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{NR}^8\text{SO}_2\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{NHSO}_2\text{NR}^8\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{NR}^8\text{SO}_2\text{NHR}^9$ , and  $\text{P}(\text{O})(\text{OR}^8)(\text{OR}^9)$ , with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and  $\text{R}^8$ ,  $\text{R}^9$  and  $\text{R}^{10}$  being each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino; and wherein  $\text{R}^4$  is selected from the group consisting of, oxo, hydroxyalkyl, alkyl, alkenyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, arylcarbonylalkyl and  $\text{R}^5$  is hydrogen, oxo, hydroxyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkyl, alkenyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, arylcarbonylalkyl.

4. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 or 2, wherein  $\text{R}^1$  is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, cycloalkylalkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, arylcarbonyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylcarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, arylthioalkyl, aralkanoyl, aroyl, carboxyl, formyl, alkenylcarbonyl, alkynylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>carbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>carbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl,  $\text{CR}^6=\text{NR}^7$ , and  $\text{CR}^6=\text{N}(\text{OR}^7)$ , with  $\text{R}^6$  and  $\text{R}^7$  being independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;

wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, alkyloxy, alkyloxyalkyloxy, cycloalkyloxy cycloalkylalkyloxy, aralkyloxy, aryloxyalkyloxy, silyloxy, alkylcarbonyloxy, arylcarbonyloxy, cycloalkylcarbonyloxy, aryloxyalkylalkyloxy, formyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>cycloalkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>carbonyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>alkanoyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkanoyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxy; Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>cycloalkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>alkanoyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkanoyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>carbonyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxy, and Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyloxy,

wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, cycloalkyl, alkyloxyalkyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)<sub>t</sub>, hydroxy, cyano, halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>amino, Het<sup>2</sup>amino, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>1</sup>thio, Het<sup>2</sup>thio, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy and Het<sup>2</sup>oxy,  $OR^8$ ,  $SR^8$ ,  $SO_2NR^8R^9$ ,  $SO_2N(OH)R^8$ , CN,  $CR^8=NR^9$ ,  $S(O)R^8$ ,  $SO_2R^8$ ,  $CR^8=N(OR^9)$ ,  $N_3$ ,  $NO_2$ ,  $NR^8R^9$ ,  $N(OH)R^8$ ,  $C(O)R^8$ ,  $C(S)R^8$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ ,  $C(O)SR^8$ ,  $C(O)NR^8R^9$ ,  $C(S)NR^8R^9$ ,  $C(O)N(OH)R^9$ ,  $C(S)N(OH)R^8$ ,  $NR^8C(O)R^9$ ,  $NR^8C(S)R^9$ ,  $N(OH)C(O)R^9$ ,  $N(OH)C(S)R^8$ ,  $NR^8CO_2R^9$ ,  $NR^8C(O)NR^9R^{10}$ ,  $NR^8C(S)NR^9R^{10}$ ,  $N(OH)CO_2R^8$ ,  $NR^8C(O)SR^9$ ,  $N(OH)C(O)NR^8R^9$ ,  $N(OH)C(S)NR^8R^9$ ,  $NR^8C(O)N(OH)R^9$ ,  $NR^8C(S)N(OH)R^9$ ,  $NR^8SO_2R^9$ ,  $NHSO_2NR^8R^9$ ,  $NR^8SO_2NHR^9$ , and  $P(O)(OR^8)(OR^9)$ , with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and  $R^8$ ,  $R^9$  and  $R^{10}$  being each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;; and

wherein  $R^4$  is oxo and  $R^5$  is hydrogen or alkyl.

5. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 or 2,

wherein  $R^1$  is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylcarbonyl, arylthioalkyl, aralkanoyl, aroyl, carboxyl, formyl, alkenylcarbonyl, alkynylcarbonyl,  $Het^1$ oxyalkyl,  $Het^1$ aryloxyalkyl,  $Het^1$ alkyloxyalkyl,  $Het^1$ arylthioalkyl,  $Het^1$ oxyalkylcarbonyl,  $Het^1$ alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl,  $Het^1$ aryloxyalkylcarbonyl,  $Het^2$ oxyalkyl,  $Het^2$ alkyloxyalkyl,  $Het^2$ aryloxyalkyl,  $Het^2$ arylthioalkyl,  $Het^2$ oxyalkylcarbonyl,  $Het^2$ alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl,  $Het^2$ aryloxyalkylcarbonyl,  $CR^6=NR^7$ , and  $CR^6=N(OR^7)$ ,

with  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  being independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl,  $Het^1$ ,  $Het^1$ alkyl,  $Het^1$ aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino; wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, arylcarbonyloxy, cycloalkylcarbonyloxy, formyloxy,  $Het^1$ carbonyloxy,  $Het^1$ alkanoyloxy,  $Het^1$ aralkanoyloxy,  $Het^2$ carbonyloxy,  $Het^2$ alkanoyloxy, and  $Het^2$ aralkanoyloxy,

wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl,  $Het^1$ ,  $Het^2$ , cycloalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl,  $alkylS(=O)_t$ , hydroxy, cyano, halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl,  $Het^1$ ,  $Het^2$ ,  $Het^1$ alkyl,  $Het^2$ alkyl,  $Het^1$ amino,  $Het^2$ amino,  $Het^1$ alkylamino,  $Het^2$ alkylamino,  $Het^1$ thio,  $Het^2$ thio,  $Het^1$ alkylthio,  $Het^2$ alkylthio,  $Het^1$ oxy and  $Het^2$ oxy,  $OR^8$ ,  $SR^8$ ,  $SO_2NR^8R^9$ ,  $SO_2N(OH)R^8$ , CN,  $CR^8=NR^9$ ,  $S(O)R^8$ ,  $SO_2R^8$ ,  $CR^8=N(OR^9)$ ,  $N_3$ ,  $NO_2$ ,  $NR^8R^9$ ,  $N(OH)R^8$ ,  $C(O)R^8$ ,  $C(S)R^8$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ ,  $C(O)SR^8$ ,  $C(O)NR^8R^9$ ,  $C(S)NR^8R^9$ ,  $C(O)N(OH)R^9$ ,  $C(S)N(OH)R^8$ ,  $NR^8C(O)R^9$ ,  $NR^8C(S)R^9$ ,  $N(OH)C(O)R^9$ ,  $N(OH)C(S)R^8$ ,  $NR^8CO_2R^9$ ,  $NR^8C(O)NR^9R^{10}$ ,  $NR^8C(S)NR^9R^{10}$ ,

$N(OH)CO_2R^8$ ,  $NR^8C(O)SR^9$ ,  $N(OH)C(O)NR^8R^9$ ,  $N(OH)C(S)NR^8R^9$ ,  $NR^8C(O)N(OH)R^9$ ,  
 $NR^8C(S)N(OH)R^9$ ,  $NR^8SO_2R^9$ ,  $NHSO_2NR^8R^9$ ,  $NR^8SO_2NHR^9$ , and  $P(O)(OR^8)(OR^9)$ ,  
 with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and  $R^8$   $R^9$  and  $R^{10}$  being each independently selected  
 from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl,  
 alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino  
 and arylthiocarbonylamino;; and

wherein  $R^4$  is oxo and  $R^5$  is hydrogen or alkyl.

6. (Currently amended) A compound according to claims 1 or 2 wherein  $R^1$  is selected from  
 the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl,  
 cycloalkylthioalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylthioalkyl, carboxyl, formyl,  
 Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl,  
 Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyl, and Het<sup>2</sup>arylthioalkyl, unsubstituted or substituted by one or  
 more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>,  
 Het<sup>2</sup>, cycloalkyl, alkyloxy, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl,  
 aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)<sub>t</sub>, hydroxy, cyano, halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or  
 disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of  
 alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy,  
 alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino,  
 arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio,  
 arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>,  
 Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>amino, Het<sup>2</sup>amino, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>1</sup>thio, Het<sup>2</sup>thio,  
 Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy and Het<sup>2</sup>oxy,  $OR^8$ ,  $SR^8$ ,  $SO_2NR^8R^9$ ,  $SO_2N(OH)R^8$ , CN,  
 $CR^8=NR^9$ ,  $S(O)R^8$ ,  $SO_2R^8$ ,  $CR^8=N(OR^9)$ ,  $N_3$ ,  $NO_2$ ,  $NR^8R^9$ ,  $N(OH)R^8$ ,  $C(O)R^8$ ,  $C(S)R^8$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ ,  
 $C(O)SR^8$ ,  $C(O)SR^8$ ,  $C(O)NR^8R^9$ ,  $C(S)NR^8R^9$ ,  $C(O)N(OH)R^9$ ,  $C(S)N(OH)R^8$ ,  $NR^8C(O)R^9$ ,  
 $NR^8C(S)R^9$ ,  $N(OH)C(O)R^9$ ,  $N(OH)C(S)R^8$ ,  $NR^8CO_2R^9$ ,  $NR^8C(O)NR^9R^{10}$ ,  $NR^8C(S)NR^9R^{10}$ ,  
 $N(OH)CO_2R^8$ ,  $NR^8C(O)SR^9$ ,  $N(OH)C(O)NR^8R^9$ ,  $N(OH)C(S)NR^8R^9$ ,  $NR^8C(O)N(OH)R^9$ ,  
 $NR^8C(S)N(OH)R^9$ ,  $NR^8SO_2R^9$ ,  $NHSO_2NR^8R^9$ ,  $NR^8SO_2NHR^9$ , and  $P(O)(OR^8)(OR^9)$ ,  
 with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and  $R^8$   $R^9$  and  $R^{10}$  being each independently selected  
 from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl,

alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino; wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are hydroxyl and wherein  $R^4$  is oxo and  $R^5$  is hydrogen.

7. (Currently amended) A compound according to claims 1 or 2, wherein  $R^1$  is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, carboxyl, formyl,  $Het^1$ oxyalkyl,  $Het^1$ aryloxyalkyl,  $Het^1$ alkyloxyalkyl,  $Het^2$ oxyalkyl,  $Het^2$ alkyloxyalkyl, and  $Het^2$ aryloxyalkyl, unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl,  $Het^1$ ,  $Het^2$ , cycloalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl,  $alkylS(=O)_t$ , hydroxy, cyano, halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl,  $Het^1$ ,  $Het^2$ ,  $Het^1$ alkyl,  $Het^2$ alkyl,  $Het^1$ amino,  $Het^2$ amino,  $Het^1$ alkylamino,  $Het^2$ alkylamino,  $Het^1$ thio,  $Het^2$ thio,  $Het^1$ alkylthio,  $Het^2$ alkylthio,  $Het^1$ oxy and  $Het^2$ oxy,  $OR^8$ ,  $SR^8$ ,  $SO_2NR^8R^9$ ,  $SO_2N(OH)R^8$ ,  $CN$ ,  $CR^8=NR^9$ ,  $S(O)R^8$ ,  $SO_2R^8$ ,  $CR^8=N(OR^9)$ ,  $N_3$ ,  $NO_2$ ,  $NR^8R^9$ ,  $N(OH)R^8$ ,  $C(O)R^8$ ,  $C(S)R^8$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ ,  $C(O)SRC(O)SR^8$ ,  $C(O)NR^8R^9$ ,  $C(S)NR^8R^9$ ,  $C(O)N(OH)R^9$ ,  $C(S)N(OH)R^8$ ,  $NR^8C(O)R^9$ ,  $NR^8C(S)R^9$ ,  $N(OH)C(O)R^9$ ,  $N(OH)C(S)R^8$ ,  $NR^8CO_2R^9$ ,  $NR^8C(O)NR^9R^{10}$ ,  $NR^8C(S)NR^9R^{10}$ ,  $N(OH)CO_2R^8$ ,  $NR^8C(O)SR^9$ ,  $N(OH)C(O)NR^8R^9$ ,  $N(OH)C(S)NR^8R^9$ ,  $NR^8C(O)N(OH)R^9$ ,  $NR^8C(S)N(OH)R^9$ ,  $NR^8SO_2R^9$ ,  $NHSO_2NR^8R^9$ ,  $NR^8SO_2NHR^9$ , and  $P(O)(OR^8)(OR^9)$ , with  $t$  being an integer between 1 and 2, and  $R^8$ ,  $R^9$  and  $R^{10}$  being each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl,  $Het^1$ ,  $Het^1$ alkyl,  $Het^1$ aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino; wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are hydroxyl,  $R^4$  is oxo and  $R^5$  is hydrogen.

8. (Previously presented) A compound according to claims 1 or 2, wherein  $R^1$  is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, carboxyl, formyl; wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are hydroxyl, and wherein  $R^4$  is oxo and  $R^5$  is hydrogen.

9. (Original) A compound according to claim 8, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is formyl, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are hydroxyl R<sup>4</sup> is oxo and R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen.

10. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 or 3, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylcarbonyl, arylthioalkyl, aralkanoyl, aroyl, carboxyl, formyl, alkenylcarbonyl, alkynylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, CR<sup>6</sup>=NR<sup>7</sup>, and CR<sup>6</sup>=N(OR<sup>7</sup>), with R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> being independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino; wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, arylcarbonyloxy, cycloalkylcarbonyloxy, formyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>carbonyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>alkanoyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkanoyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>carbonyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>alkanoyloxy, and Het<sup>2</sup>aralkanoyloxy, wherein R<sup>1</sup> R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, cycloalkyl, alkyloxy, carbonyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)<sub>n</sub>, hydroxy, cyano, halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>amino, Het<sup>2</sup>amino, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>1</sup>thio, Het<sup>2</sup>thio, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthio,

Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy and Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, OR<sup>8</sup>, SR<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, CN, CR<sup>8</sup>=NR<sup>9</sup>, S(O)R<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, CR<sup>8</sup>=N(OR<sup>9</sup>), N<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)R<sup>8</sup>, C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, ~~C(O)SR<sup>8</sup>C(O)SR<sup>8</sup>~~, C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, N(OH)CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)SR<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NHSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>NHR<sup>9</sup>, and P(O)(OR<sup>8</sup>)(OR<sup>9</sup>), with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> being each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;; and

wherein R<sup>4</sup> is oxo, hydroxyalkyl, alkyl, alkenyl, arylcarbonylaryl, or alkylcarbonylalkyl and R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen or alkyl.

11. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 or 3, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is hydroxyalkyl, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are hydroxyl, R<sup>4</sup> is oxo and R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen.

12. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 or 3, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylthioalkyl, carboxyl, formyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyl, and Het<sup>2</sup>arylthioalkyl, unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, cycloalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)<sub>t</sub>, hydroxy, cyano, halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>amino, Het<sup>2</sup>amino,

Het<sup>1</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>1</sup>thio, Het<sup>2</sup>thio, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy and Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, OR<sup>8</sup>, SR<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, CN, CR<sup>8</sup>=NR<sup>9</sup>, S(O)R<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, CR<sup>8</sup>=N(OR<sup>9</sup>), N<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)R<sup>8</sup>, C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)SRC(O)SR<sup>8</sup>, C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, N(OH)CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)SR<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NH<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>NHR<sup>9</sup>, and P(O)(OR<sup>8</sup>)(OR<sup>9</sup>), with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and R<sup>8</sup> R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> being each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino; wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are hydroxyl and wherein R<sup>4</sup> is hydroxyalkyl, arylcarbonylalkyl, or alkylcarbonylalkyl and R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen.

13. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 or 3, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, carboxyl, formyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, and Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyl, unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, cycloalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)<sub>t</sub>, hydroxy, cyano, halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>amino, Het<sup>2</sup>amino, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>1</sup>thio, Het<sup>2</sup>thio, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy and Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, OR<sup>8</sup>, SR<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, CN, CR<sup>8</sup>=NR<sup>9</sup>, S(O)R<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, CR<sup>8</sup>=N(OR<sup>9</sup>), N<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)R<sup>8</sup>, C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)SRC(O)SR<sup>8</sup>, C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)R<sup>8</sup>,



$\text{NR}^8\text{CO}_2\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{NR}^8\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^9\text{R}^{10}$ ,  $\text{NR}^8\text{C}(\text{S})\text{NR}^9\text{R}^{10}$ ,  $\text{N}(\text{OH})\text{CO}_2\text{R}^8$ ,  $\text{NR}^8\text{C}(\text{O})\text{SR}^9$ ,  
 $\text{N}(\text{OH})\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^8\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{N}(\text{OH})\text{C}(\text{S})\text{NR}^8\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{NR}^8\text{C}(\text{O})\text{N}(\text{OH})\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{NR}^8\text{C}(\text{S})\text{N}(\text{OH})\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{NR}^8\text{SO}_2\text{R}^9$ ,  
 $\text{NHSO}_2\text{NR}^8\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{NR}^8\text{SO}_2\text{NHR}^9$ , and  $\text{P}(\text{O})(\text{OR}^8)(\text{OR}^9)$ ,

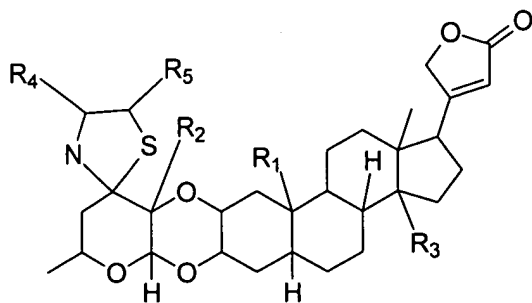
with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and  $\text{R}^8$ ,  $\text{R}^9$  and  $\text{R}^{10}$  being each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino; wherein  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  are hydroxyl,  $\text{R}^4$  is hydroxyalkyl, arylcarbonylalkyl, or alkylcarbonylalkyl and  $\text{R}^5$  is hydrogen.

14. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 or 3, wherein  $\text{R}^1$  is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, carboxyl, and formyl; wherein  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  are hydroxyl, and wherein  $\text{R}^4$  is arylcarbonylalkyl and  $\text{R}^5$  is hydrogen.

15. (Original) A compound according to claim 14, wherein  $\text{R}^1$  is hydroxyalkyl,  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  are hydroxyl,  $\text{R}^4$  is arylcarbonylalkyl and  $\text{R}^5$  is hydrogen.

16. (Original) A compound according to claim 15, wherein  $\text{R}^1$  is hydroxymethylene,  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  are hydroxyl,  $\text{R}^4$  is phenylcarbonylmethylene and  $\text{R}^5$  is hydrogen.

17. (Currently amended) A compound having the formula Ia or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,  
 formula Ia



wherein  $\text{R}^1$  is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl,

cycloalkylalkanoyl, cycloalkylalkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, arylcarbonyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylcarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, arylthioalkyl, aralkanoyl, aroyl, silyloxyalkyl, carboxyl, alkenylcarbonyl, alkynylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>carbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>carbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, CR<sup>6</sup>=NR<sup>7</sup>, and CR<sup>6</sup>=N(OR<sup>7</sup>),

with R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> being independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;

wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, alkyloxy, alkylsilyloxy, arylsilyloxy, alkyloxyalkyloxy, cycloalkyloxy cycloalkylalkyloxy, aralkyloxy, aryloxyalkyloxy, silyloxy, alkylcarbonyloxy, arylcarbonyloxy, cycloalkylcarbonyloxy, haloalkyloxy, hydroxyalkyloxy, aralkanoyloxy, aroyloxy, aryloxycarbonylalkyloxy, formyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>cycloalkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>carbonyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>oxycarbonyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>alkanoyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkanoyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aroyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxy; Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>cycloalkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>alkanoyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkanoyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>carbonyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxy, and Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyloxy;

wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, cycloalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)<sub>n</sub>, hydroxy, cyano, halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl,

aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>amino, Het<sup>2</sup>amino, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>1</sup>thio, Het<sup>2</sup>thio, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy and Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, OR<sup>8</sup>, SR<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, CN, CR<sup>8</sup>=NR<sup>9</sup>, S(O)R<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, CR<sup>8</sup>=N(OR<sup>9</sup>), N<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)R<sup>8</sup>, C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)SR<sup>8</sup>(OR<sup>9</sup>), C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, N(OH)CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)SR<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NHSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>NHR<sup>9</sup>, and P(O)(OR<sup>8</sup>)(OR<sup>9</sup>), with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and R<sup>8</sup> R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> being each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino; and

wherein R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> are hydrogen or alkyl;

wherein Het<sup>1</sup> is defined as a saturated or partially unsaturated monocyclic, bicyclic or polycyclic heterocycle consisting of 3 to 12 ring members which comprise one or more heteroatom ring members selected from nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur, optionally substituted on one or more carbon atoms by alkyl, alkyloxy, halogen, hydroxyl, oxo, optionally mono- or disubstituted amino, nitro, cyano, haloalkyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl cycloalkyl, optionally mono-or disubstituted aminocarbonyl, methylthio, methylsulfonyl, aryl and a saturated or partially unsaturated monocyclic, bicyclic or tricyclic heterocycle consisting of 3 to 12 ring members which contain one or more heteroatom ring members selected from nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur and whereby the optional substituents on any amino function are independently selected from alkyl, alkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, aryl, aryloxy, aryloxyalkyl, aralkyl, alkyloxycarbonylamino, amino and aminoalkyl whereby each of the amino groups may optionally be mono-or disubstituted with alkyl;

wherein Het<sup>2</sup> is defined as an aromatic monocyclic, bicyclic or tricyclic heterocycle consisting of 3 to 12 ring members comprising one or more heteroatom ring members selected from nitrogen,

oxygen or sulfur and optionally substituted on one or more carbon atoms by alkyl, alkyloxy, halogen, hydroxyl, optionally mono-or disubstituted amino, nitro, cyano, haloalkyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkyl, optionally mono-or disubstituted aminocarbonyl, methylthio, methylsulfonyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup> and an aromatic monocyclic, bicyclic, or tricyclic heterocycle consisting of 3 to 12 ring members, whereby the optional substituents on any amino function are independently selected from alkyl, alkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, aryl, aryloxy, aryloxyalkyl, aralkyl, alkyloxycarbonylamino, amino, and amionalkyl whereby each of the amino groups may optionally be mono- or disubstituted with alkyl.

18. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 17, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylcarbonyl, arylthioalkyl, aralkanoyl, aroyl, silyloxyalkyl, carboxyl, alkenylcarbonyl, alkynylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, CR<sup>6</sup>=NR<sup>7</sup>, and CR<sup>6</sup>=N(OR<sup>7</sup>), with R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> being independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino; wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, alkyloxy, alkylsilyloxy, arylsilyloxy, alkyloxyalkyloxy, cycloalkyloxy cycloalkylalkyloxy, aralkyloxy, aryloxyalkyloxy, silyloxy, alkylcarbonyloxy, arylcarbonyloxy, cycloalkylcarbonyloxy, haloalkyloxy, hydroxyalkyloxy, aralkanoyloxy, aroyloxy, aryloxycarbonylalkyloxy, formyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>cycloalkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>carbonyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>oxycarbonyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>alkanoyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkanoyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aroyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxy; Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>cycloalkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>alkanoyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkanoyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>carbonyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxy, and Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyloxy;

;

wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, cycloalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)<sub>t</sub>, hydroxy, cyano, halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>amino, Het<sup>2</sup>amino, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>1</sup>thio, Het<sup>2</sup>thio, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy and Het<sup>2</sup>oxy,  $OR^8$ ,  $SR^8$ ,  $SO_2NR^8R^9$ ,  $SO_2N(OH)R^8$ , CN,  $CR^8=NR^9$ ,  $S(O)R^8$ ,  $SO_2R^8$ ,  $CR^8=N(OR^9)$ ,  $N_3$ ,  $NO_2$ ,  $NR^8R^9$ ,  $N(OH)R^8$ ,  $C(O)R^8$ ,  $C(S)R^8$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ ,  $\underline{C(O)SR^8}$ ,  $C(O)SR^8$ ,  $C(O)NR^8R^9$ ,  $C(S)NR^8R^9$ ,  $C(O)N(OH)R^8$ ,  $C(S)N(OH)R^8$ ,  $NR^8C(O)R^9$ ,  $NR^8C(S)R^9$ ,  $N(OH)C(O)R^9$ ,  $N(OH)C(S)R^8$ ,  $NR^8CO_2R^9$ ,  $NR^8C(O)NR^9R^{10}$ ,  $NR^8C(S)NR^9R^{10}$ ,  $N(OH)CO_2R^8$ ,  $NR^8C(O)SR^9$ ,  $N(OH)C(O)NR^8R^9$ ,  $N(OH)C(S)NR^8R^9$ ,  $NR^8C(O)N(OH)R^9$ ,  $NR^8C(S)N(OH)R^9$ ,  $NR^8SO_2R^9$ ,  $NHSO_2NR^8R^9$ ,  $NR^8SO_2NHR^9$ , and  $P(O)(OR^8)(OR^9)$ , with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and  $R^8$ ,  $R^9$  and  $R^{10}$  being each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino; and wherein  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  are hydrogen or alkyl.

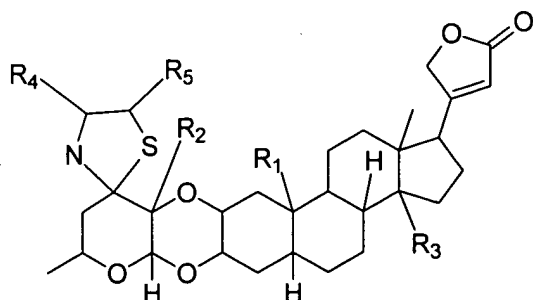
19. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 17 or 18, wherein  $R^1$  is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylthioalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, carboxyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyl, and Het<sup>2</sup>arylthioalkyl, unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, cycloalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or

di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)<sub>t</sub>, hydroxy, cyano, halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>amino, Het<sup>2</sup>amino, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>1</sup>thio, Het<sup>2</sup>thio, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy and Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, OR<sup>8</sup>, SR<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, CN, CR<sup>8</sup>=NR<sup>9</sup>, S(O)R<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, CR<sup>8</sup>=N(OR<sup>9</sup>), N<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)R<sup>8</sup>, C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)SR<sup>8</sup>, C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, N(OH)CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)SR<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NHSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>NHR<sup>9</sup>, and P(O)(OR<sup>8</sup>)(OR<sup>9</sup>), with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> being each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino; wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are hydroxyl and wherein R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> are hydrogen or alkyl.

20. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 17 or 18, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, carboxyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, and Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyl, unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, cycloalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)<sub>t</sub>, hydroxy, cyano, halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino,

arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>amino, Het<sup>2</sup>amino, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>1</sup>thio, Het<sup>2</sup>thio, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy and Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, OR<sup>8</sup>, SR<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, CN, CR<sup>8</sup>=NR<sup>9</sup>, S(O)R<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, CR<sup>8</sup>=N(OR<sup>9</sup>), N<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)R<sup>8</sup>, C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)SRC(O)SR<sup>8</sup>, C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, N(OH)CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)SR<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NHSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>NHR<sup>9</sup>, and P(O)(OR<sup>8</sup>)(OR<sup>9</sup>), with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and R<sup>8</sup> R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> being each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino; wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are hydroxyl and wherein R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> are hydrogen.

21. (Currently amended) A compound having the formula Ib or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,  
 formula Ib



wherein R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group consisting of alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, cycloalkylalkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, arylcarbonyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylcarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, arylthioalkyl, aralkanoyl, aroyl, silyloxyalkyl, carboxyl, alkenylcarbonyl, alkynylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxycarbonyl,

Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>carbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>carbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, CR<sup>6</sup>=NR<sup>7</sup>, and CR<sup>6</sup>=N(OR<sup>7</sup>),

with R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> being independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;

wherein R<sup>1</sup> is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, cycloalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)<sub>t</sub>, hydroxy, cyano, halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>amino, Het<sup>2</sup>amino, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>1</sup>thio, Het<sup>2</sup>thio, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy and Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, OR<sup>8</sup>, SR<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, CN, CR<sup>8</sup>=NR<sup>9</sup>, S(O)R<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, CR<sup>8</sup>=N(OR<sup>9</sup>), N<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)R<sup>8</sup>, C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)SRC(O)<sub>t</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, N(OH)CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)SR<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NHSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>NHR<sup>9</sup>, and P(O)(OR<sup>8</sup>)(OR<sup>9</sup>), with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> being each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl,



alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino, and

wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are hydroxyl and wherein R<sup>4</sup> is replaced by a double bond between the N atom and the C carbon atom of the N-containing heterocyclic ring of formula Ib; and wherein R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen;

wherein Het<sup>1</sup> is defined as a saturated or partially unsaturated monocyclic, bicyclic or polycyclic heterocycle consisting of 3 to 12 ring members which comprise one or more heteroatom ring members selected from nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur, optionally substituted on one or more carbon atoms by alkyl, alkyloxy, halogen, hydroxyl, oxo, optionally mono- or disubstituted amino, nitro, cyano, haloalkyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl cycloalkyl, optionally mono-or disubstituted aminocarbonyl, methylthio, methylsulfonyl, aryl and a saturated or partially unsaturated monocyclic, bicyclic or tricyclic heterocycle consisting of 3 to 12 ring members which contain one or more heteroatom ring members selected from nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur and whereby the optional substituents on any amino function are independently selected from alkyl, alkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, aryl, aryloxy, aryloxyalkyl, aralkyl, alkyloxycarbonylamino, amino and aminoalkyl whereby each of the amino groups may optionally be mono-or disubstituted with alkyl;

wherein Het<sup>2</sup> is defined as an aromatic monocyclic, bicyclic or tricyclic heterocycle consisting of 3 to 12 ring members comprising one or more heteroatom ring members selected from nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur and optionally substituted on one or more carbon atoms by alkyl, alkyloxy, halogen, hydroxyl, optionally mono-or disubstituted amino, nitro, cyano, haloalkyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkyl, optionally mono-or disubstituted aminocarbonyl, methylthio, methylsulfonyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup> and an aromatic monocyclic, bicyclic, or tricyclic heterocycle consisting of 3 to 12 ring members, whereby the optional substituents on any amino function are independently selected from alkyl, alkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, aryl, aryloxy, aryloxyalkyl, aralkyl, alkyloxycarbonylamino, amino, and aminoalkyl whereby each of the amino groups may optionally be mono- or disubstituted with alkyl.

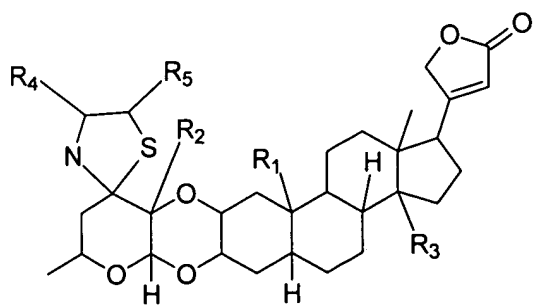
22. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 21, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group consisting of alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl,

arylalkenyl, carboxyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, and Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyl, unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, cycloalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)<sub>t</sub>, hydroxy, cyano, halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>amino, Het<sup>2</sup>amino, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>1</sup>thio, Het<sup>2</sup>thio, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy and Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, OR<sup>8</sup>, SR<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, CN, CR<sup>8</sup>=NR<sup>9</sup>, S(O)R<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, CR<sup>8</sup>=N(OR<sup>9</sup>), N<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)R<sup>8</sup>, C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)SR<sup>8</sup>, C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, N(OH)CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)SR<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NHSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>NHR<sup>9</sup>, and P(O)(OR<sup>8</sup>)(OR<sup>9</sup>), with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and R<sup>8</sup> R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> being each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino; wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are hydroxyl and wherein R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> are hydrogen.

23. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 22, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, carboxyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, and Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyl, unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, cycloalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)<sub>t</sub>, hydroxy, cyano, halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein

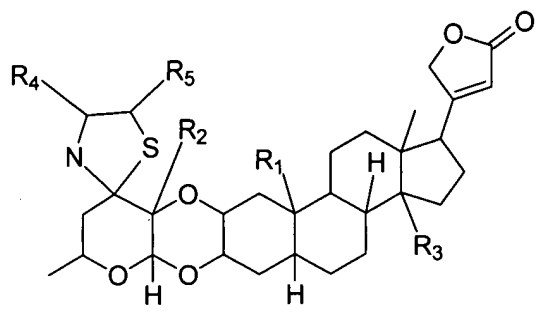
the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>amino, Het<sup>2</sup>amino, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>1</sup>thio, Het<sup>2</sup>thio, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy and Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, OR<sup>8</sup>, SR<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, CN, CR<sup>8</sup>=NR<sup>9</sup>, S(O)R<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, CR<sup>8</sup>=N(OR<sup>9</sup>), N<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)R<sup>8</sup>, C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)SRC(O)R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, N(OH)CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)SR<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NHSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>NHR<sup>9</sup>, and P(O)(OR<sup>8</sup>)(OR<sup>9</sup>), with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> being each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino, wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are hydroxyl; wherein R<sup>4</sup> is replaced by a double bond between the N atom and the C carbon atom of the N-containing heterocyclic ring of formula Ib; and wherein R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen.

24. (Currently amended) A compound of formula I,



wherein R<sup>1</sup> is hydroxyalkyl, wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are hydroxyl; wherein R<sup>4</sup> is replaced by a double bond between the N atom and the C carbon atom of the N-containing heterocyclic ring of formula I; and wherein R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen.

25. (Currently amended) A compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,



wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> are selected as in Table A.

26. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1, 17 and 21.

27. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 9.

28. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 11.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently amended) A method of treating cancer comprising administering a compound according to any one of claims 1, 17, and 21 to an individual in need of such treatment, wherein

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the cancer is selected from the group consisting of lung cancer, breast cancer, melanoma cancer, glioma, colon cancer, bladder cancer, prostate cancer and pancreatic cancer.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently amended) A method of treating cancer comprising administering to an individual in need of such treatment a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 26, wherein the cancer is selected from the group consisting of lung cancer, breast cancer, melanoma cancer, glioma, colon cancer, bladder cancer, prostate cancer and pancreatic cancer.